

the lighter side

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HOME ON THE RANGE

AN EXCERPT FROM *IF YOU FEEL LIKE SINGING* BY ALICE H. OSMAN AND JEAN MCCONCHIE

Sentimentally G7 C Traditional F C

Oh, give me a home, Where the buffalo roam, Where the deer and the antelope play, Where seldom is heard a discouraging word, And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Chorus: G G7 C D7 G7 C F G7 C

Home, home on the range, Where the deer and the antelope play, Where seldom is heard a discouraging word, And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Singing Tip: Some singers can harmonize by singing the small notes in the chorus.

GT C F D7
322001 322010 432315 500210

The origin of this song, as of many other folksongs, is uncertain. We know that it was sung in Texas as early as 1867. We also know that a set of words was published in 1873 by a pioneer doctor, Brewster M. Higley, who had moved from Ohio to Kansas (some said he moved to escape his bad tempered wife). The music has been attributed to Daniel E. Kelley, a musician and entertainer who had moved to Kansas from Rhode Island. Honoring these two men, Kansas adopted *Home on the Range* as its state song in 1947.

The Homestead Law of 1862 encouraged the westward movement that brought Higley and Kelley to Kansas. Under this law, a settler could become the owner of 160 acres of land after paying an \$18 fee and farming the land for five years. This distribution of government land soon brought an end to the open range; by 1885, railroad tracks and barbed wire fences had divided the land.

By the turn of the century, most of the buffalo, deer and antelope had been killed. Buffalo can now be found only in zoos and on small private ranches. The deer and antelope herds have grown in recent years; they present a wildlife conservation problem because there isn't enough open land to support them. The range celebrated in this song—thousands of miles of unfenced grassland between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains—now exists only in memory.

A	C	R	A	N	G	E	E
L	N	G	D	E	E	R	C
L	I	T	S	R	K	M	O
S	K	I	E	S	O	Q	U
P	S	H	L	L	W	T	R
L	W	O	D	A	O	U	A
A	J	M	O	N	R	P	G
Y	O	E	M	F	D	E	E

A WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Find the following words in the word search puzzle. When you find a word, circle it. Words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, or even backwards.

all
antelope
are
courage (from *discouraging*)
deer
home
not

on
play
range
skies
seldom
where
word

ANSWERS

HOME ON THE RANGE

A WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

